

amendments to LB 292. All those in favor say aye. Opposed no. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the bill is by Senator Beutler. Senator, I understand you want to withdraw AM1078 and substitute AM1435. (Beutler amendment appears on page 1551 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: No objection, so ordered. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment before you has been passed out to you and basically it amends the E & R amendment, which is the bill, to delete all that portion of the bill which has to do with early retirement and the Rule of 90, which I understand in terms of the financial significant amounts to a couple million dollars of the bill. So again, what it does is eliminate the new proposal which is the Rule of 90, that is when your years of service added to your age equal 90 you can take full retirement without any kind of penalty or deduction, assuming that you're over 60, 60 or over. And it returns it to current law which is not as liberal as that. In short, what the bill does is encourage and it will cause earlier retirement on the part of several hundred teachers and my basic philosophy is this, and this is not a question of teachers to me. It's a question of whether our society at this particular point in our history should be encouraging the earlier retirement of any group of people. It seems to me manifest that the principal, one of the principal problems of our time is the problem of ever lengthening life spans and the problem of financing the care of retired people, in particular the medical care of retired people, and that one of the things we need to do, as a state Legislature, is to turn around this trend that has been here ever since I've been here of taking one group after another and making their retirements or causing their retirement, their actual retirements to be earlier and earlier and earlier. Because what we are doing over the long run, what we are clearly doing, in my mind, is making it more and more difficult to finance the retirement period of our senior citizens because we're cutting down more and more on the work force that is there to do that financing. What we should be doing is just the opposite. We should be encouraging people to work longer and assuming that their health is better, which I think it is, and they are living longer, probably, if anything, people should be working a little longer. I think it would probably be fair to predict that within a short period of time